Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program (DSCRTP) Regional Fieldwork Alaska FY12-14: Planning Team Roles and Responsibilities

Planning Team

The Regional Planning Team includes a team lead and representatives from the participating NOAA Line Offices. The Team is responsible for developing and implementing the Science Plan, and ensuring outreach to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) and others.

Planning Team Roles and Responsibilities

NMFS-Alaska Fisheries Science Center Representative

- Team Lead responsible for the overall coordination of the three-year field effort including related analyses.
- Coordinates preparation and ensures submission of the three-year science plan and field research deliverables to headquarters.
    - Ensures fieldwork data are accessible and appropriately archived within NOAA.
    - Ensures that the identified core data deliverables (see Attachment 1) are submitted to the headquarters data management point of contact.
- Oversees the planning and execution of the three-year fieldwork effort, including coordinating ship requests and field activities.
    - Keeps headquarters informed of schedules for research cruises, issues encountered, and opportunities for leveraging additional expertise or resources.
    - Oversees the preparation of expedition cruise data management plans or agreements that identify data sets to be acquired and meet draft national program criteria; submits these to headquarters before the cruise.
    - Mobilizes regional outreach staff to conduct media and public outreach activities associated with the fieldwork, if any.
- Provides regular updates to headquarters on project status at six month intervals and upon completion of cruise activities components.

NMFS-Alaska Fisheries Science Center Representative

- As chief scientist, ensures the research method and results are scientifically sound.
- Identifies NMFS deep-sea coral information needs and NMFS science assets.
- Presents interim and final results in reports, publications and presentations as needed.

NMFS-Alaska Regional Office Representative

- Responsible for ensuring coordination with the NPFMC, and NMFS regional management responsibilities (e.g., Essential Fish Habitat information needs).

OAR-Office of Ocean Exploration and Research Representative (John Tomczuk)

- Serves as a headquarters liaison to the Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) Program Manager and Deep Team.
- Builds synergy between the program-funded fieldwork and OAR's deep-sea coral science activities.

OAR-National Undersea Research Program Representative (Jennifer Reynolds)

- Identifies scientific and advanced undersea technologies that can contribute to the three-year field effort.
- Builds synergy with the larger regional scientific community to advance deep-sea coral program priorities.

NOS-National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science Representatives (Peter Etnoyer)

- Builds linkage with NOS science assess and expertise.
- Contributes to media and public outreach activities if any.

Other Members

- Other appropriate representatives (e.g., NESDIS, etc,) identified by the core team as needed to successfully implement the three-year field effort.

ATTACHMENT 1

DRAFT 2: Expected deliverables from Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program (DSCRTP) Research Cruises

The DSCRTP field activities are seeking to develop information and knowledge on the following topics:

- Locate and characterize of deep-sea corals (DSC) (and sponges)
- Understand Biology of DSC
- Understand Ecology of DSC
- Human impacts to DSC

Information funded through DSCRTP is reliant upon the cooperation of internal and external scientists from multiple disciplines and depends upon the facilitation of data exchange. The following guidelines are intended to serve as a basis for developing expectations between research partners, collaborators, and the DSCRTP. They are also intended to be flexible and responsive to the needs of individual investigations. Prior to research cruises it is expected that a specific list of deliverables including formats and timelines will be developed and agreed upon by both the Principal Investigators (PIs) and the DSCRTP.

General:

1) Prior to departure PIs must formulate and communicate plans/ procedures for data collection, processing, and submission to the DSCRTP that include the following:
   - Participants and expected research activities (including brief discussion of each anticipated area of investigation and plans for post cruise analysis)
   - Justification for activities based on the DSCRTP mandates and objectives
   - List of deliverables and tentative delivery dates
   - Planned disposition of samples collected

2) Within 6 weeks of returning to dock:
   - Initial Cruise Report, including:
     a. Initial description of dive sites, areas multi-beamed, or lander deployment locations;
     b. Summary of research accomplished, specimens collected; and,
     c. Any particularly noteworthy preliminary findings, especially those of potential conservation and management significance.
   - Copies of all videos or images collected (e.g., georeferenced ROV/AUV tapes) submitted to the DSCRTP Data Manager (Dan Dorfman) who will ensure that copies are provided to the appropriate NOAA Data Center
   - Preliminary abstracts for planned research

3) Within 6 months of return:
   - Processed multibeam bathymetry and backscatter imagery (copies submitted to NGDC)

4) Within 6 – 12 months after return:
    - Research Site Characterization (comparable to the SEADESC site characterization – see draft format – Attachment 3):
        a. Georectified GIS of ROV, AUV or submersible tracks, or locations of AUV mosaics.
        b. Description of the biological and physical environment with special attention to the description and GIS locations of coral and sponge aggregations from direct observations that may be relevant for further analyses. Include measures or estimates of coral extent/density, coral condition.
        c. Locations (and initial identification) of coral- or sponge-associated fisheries species
        d. Locations of potential evidence of human impacts (e.g. potential trawl tracks, etc.)
    - Initial ROV/Submersible video quick-look analysis (video annotation modified from HURL video analysis protocol see draft format – Attachment 4):
        a. Occurrences of structure-forming corals or sponges by abundance category (e.g., 1=1-5; 2=6-10; 3=>10) per 5 min. Corals should be identified to the finest taxonomic level practicable – generally at least to Order. Preliminary locations of major coral and sponge aggregations from direct observations, including metadata, preliminary taxonomic identification, measure or estimate of coral extent/density, coral condition.
        b. Occurrences of fisheries species by abundance category (e.g., 1=1-5; 2=6-10; 3=>10) per 5 min.
    - List of specimens collected and associated metadata, including location, link to still or video images, and where the sample or subsamples disposition. For samples of structure-forming corals, metadata suitable for inclusion in the NOAA/USGS Deep-Sea Coral Database will be required.

5) Within 24 months of return:
    - Final Report including results of research, further taxonomic identification of coral and sponge species with measures or estimate of coral and sponge extent/density, coral condition; and locations (and initial identification) of coral- or sponge-associated species
    - Drafts of research findings (e.g., sample analyses, coral ages, etc.) and continued investigation plans (not for NOAA to distribute)
    - Further taxonomic identifications of major coral and sponge species in images and associated fauna.
    - Full data & metadata for coral and sponge locations from videos/photographs, and direct observations.

6) When published – PDF Copies of any reports or papers published using the NOAA-funded research, with acknowledgement of funding under NOAA's Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program

In July 2010, the DSCRTP conducted an information management workshop with partners and collaborators. Based on input from the workshop, the DSCRTP is developing draft standard methodologies for initial habitat characterization and video/AUV analysis specifically designed

to provide a first cut of information needed by managers. In 2011, the DSCRTP will also develop a draft information management plan for the DSCRTP as part of the CRCP Data Management Plan. These efforts will further inform the program and partners on the details for what information is best suited to advancing the program and field of research, the expected format for this data, and the policies and procedures relevant for information collection, management and distribution. This effort will also establish a database format for tracking deep-sea coral locations and associated information which researchers will be asked to follow when delivering data to the program.